Addenda: clarification/change to the Action Plan for *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2 found in nursery facilities, version 3   Effective March 21, 2003

The *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2 Action Plan is being revised and an updated version will be released in the near future. PPQ is clarifying how to address "commingled" plants and determining which plants to destroy if PPQ determines *R. solanacearum* Race 3 biovar 2 is present. It has therefore changed the wording in its instructions to clarify definitions of commingling and what is considered a shipment. Until the action plan is revised, the following clarifications/changes can be acted upon immediately. Any questions can be directed to the State Plant Health Director or regional contacts.

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All suspect geraniums in a shipment (arriving on the same day and reflected on the invoice) and any host material in that shipment will be held.

·   If any suspect geranium or other hosts from that shipment tests positive by PPQ as *R. solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2, the entire shipment of suspect geraniums and hosts from the same shipment will be destroyed plus all plants (hosts and non-hosts) within one meter of those plants .

·   Additional plants at the destination nursery will be destroyed if they share a water supply with the plants from the positive testing shipment as defined in the current action plan (version 3, 2/27/03), are beneath hanging suspect geraniums from that shipment, or were subject to unsanitary cultural practices as defined in the action plan.

·   The only held plants then remaining after destruction should be other shipments of suspect geraniums or other plants (hosts and non-hosts) associated with them by commingling in the shipment or at the destination nursery. These shipments, and the other plants associated with them by commingling (hosts and non-hosts), should continue to be held at the originally initiated time and temperature regime for that shipment(s) to determine if wilt symptoms are expressed in the geraniums.

The definitions clarified in the action plan are:

Suspect plants - all plants, regardless of host status, that may have become commingled or cross contaminated during shipping, as defined below.

Shipment - all plants appearing on the invoice or packing list from a rooting station or other source nursery facility of potentially infected material shipped together on the same day.

Commingled plants during shipping- all suspect geraniums of a shipment regardless of shipping method and including other host plants in a shipment with suspect geraniums. Other non-host plants in the same shipment are not considered commingled during shipping unless shared water or other cross contamination involving water during shipping is suspected (the normal industry practice is to ship plants without excess water). Additionally in a conveyance such as a truck, other plants, regardless if hosts, from other non-suspect shipments delivered to a destination

nursery in that same conveyance are not considered commingled, unless shared water or other cross contamination involving water during shipping is suspected.

Commingling at destination nursery- within the nursery facility property, a) all plants within one meter of suspect geraniums from a shipment and within one meter from other hosts plants from the same shipment as defined above, b) all plants under the drip-line of hanging suspect geraniums, c) all plants on a common irrigation system such as ebb-and-flow, flood, or sub-irrigation, or systems that lack backflow prevention, or systems in which plants are placed on tarps or ground mats in a manner that allows water to collect in puddles, d) all plants that may have been cross contaminated with suspect geraniums through unsanitary greenhouse practices such as failure to disinfect tools, hands, or equipment during grafting, pruning, de-budding, or de-leafing. An exception to the one meter rule is to *not* consider commingled any plants or geraniums from other shipments that are hanging *above* a positive-tested geranium shipment.